

Laying of new rail line between Namkom to Kandra

†1896. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work with regard to technical-economic survey for laying of railway line from Namkom to Kandra has been completed to minimise distance between Ranchi-Tatanagar in Jharkhand;

(b) by when the work on this project is likely to be initiated; and

(c) the details of the other railway line in Jharkhand for which the survey is being conducted apart from the said survey?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The survey for construction of a new line between Kandra and Namkom has been completed. The taking up of work on this project would depend upon further decision on the survey report.

(c) Following surveys other than Kandra-Namkom new line survey are in progress in Jharkhand:—

Surveys for new lines between Hazaribagh-Garwa Road, Gaya-Daltonganj (via Imamganj), Nawadah-Giridih (via Satgawan) & Lohardaga-Gumla with extension up to Simdega and surveys for 3rd lines between Chakradharpur-Bondamunda & Kharagpur-Jharsuguda.

Vacancies in security grade

†1897. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 78000 posts of security grade are lying vacant in Railways;

(b) the effect of this situation on Railways' security system; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government for filling up these vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) Recruitment to fill up vacancies is a continuous process and it is done from time to time.

Irregularities and malfunctioning in pantry cars of trains

†1898. SHRI MAHENDRA SAHNI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that gross irregularities and malfunctioning in the pantry car of Rajdhani/Superfast Express trains and Vaishali Superfast Express trains run by Indian Railways have been noticed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to bring in qualitative improvements in the said Superfast Express trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No gross irregularity and malfunctioning in the pantry car of Rajdhani/Superfast Express trains including Vaishali Superfast Express train have been noticed. However, there were three complaints each for Patna Rajdhani Express and Vaishali Express trains for 2005-06 and four and five complaints respectively for Patna Rajdhani Express and Vaishali Express trains for 2006-07. Actions like, fine in four cases, warning in five cases and counseling in four cases have been taken. Similar actions have been taken in the deficiencies noticed during inspections.

(c) Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) and zonal railways conduct inspections and surprise checks at stations and on trains with a view to ensure that good quality food is supplied on trains and at stations through railway catering services. Appropriate action is taken on the complaints received.

Rail projects

1899. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA:
SHRI T.S. BAJWA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of railway projects have been inordinately delayed, thereby causing escalation of costs of the projects;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.